ITALY 2017 - IPS AFFILIATE REPORT FORM

AFFILIATE NAME: ITALIAN ASSOCIATION OF PLANETARIA
Associazione dei Planetari Italiani (PlanIt)
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1 - AFFILIATE NEWS

The XXXIIInd national PlanIt conference (April 2017) has been held in the Planetarium Südtirol/Alto Adige, San Valentino in Campo (Bozen), one of the most participated Italian conferences. During the meeting has been held the workshop “Active Pedagogy, Activate Learning In and Out of the Planetarium Environment” by Larry Krumenaker, astronomer and American professor, now living in Germany, director in the past of the magazine "The Classroom Astronomer" and author of many articles and books, teacher in various international universities. Next year the national conference will be held at Infini.to Planetarium, Turin. Our conferences are open to everyone.

The yearly “Prize PlanIt” (V edition) has been appointed to Nicola Bonomo (Verona, Italy) for the video “Jupiter updated”. Each year the duplicate of the winner product has been diffused to PlanIt members, therefore at the moment our members received 5 different videos. PlanIt invites IPS Affiliates to organize in their countries similar prizes and to share the winner products. The deadline of the next prize will be on 28 February 2018.

The 2017 winner of “Two weeks in Italy” prize, organized by IPS Portable Planetarium Committee in collaboration with the astronomical facilities of Brescia and Lumezzane (Serafino Zani Astronomical Observatory), “StarLight… a handy planetarium” association (Perugia) and the Astronomical Center of Farra d’Isonzo (Gorizia), has been appointed to Shawn Laatsch (Emera Astronomy Center, Orono, Maine). The student lesson managed by Shawn was divided in two parts, the first devoted to the total solar eclipse of August 21st visible in the USA and the second about the summer sky and the legends of the constellations. During the lessons in Brescia, Shawn recorded new audio for the “Voices from the dome” archive, now available on the IPS web site. One is about the constellation myths and two are personal memories.
Here is the list of all 19 winners: **Susan Reynolds Button** (OCM BOCES Planetarium, Syracuse, New York); **Jeanne E. Bishop** (Westlake School Planetarium, Ohio); **Jerry Vinski** (Planetarium of the Raritan Valley Community College, New Jersey); **Dee Wanger** (Discovery Center Science Museum, Fort Collins, Colorado); **April Whitt** (Fernbank Science Center, Atlanta, Georgia); **Raymond Shubinski** (East Kentucky Center for Science, mathematics & Technology); **Andrea Lee Pisacano** (Kauai Children's Discovery Museum, Hawaii); **Dayle Brown** (Pegasus Production, Indiana, USA); **John T. Meader** (Northern Stars Planetarium, Fairfield, Maine); **Corey Radman** (Discovery Center Science Museum, Fort Collins, Colorado), **Carolyn R. Kaichi** (Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii); **Michele Wistisen** (Casper Planetarium, Casper, Wyoming); **Joseph E. Ciotti** (Hokulani Imaginarium, Kaneohe, Hawaii); **Stephen R. McNeil** (Brigham Young University, Idaho Planetarium, Rexburg, Idaho); **Patricia Toth Seaton** (Howard B. Owens Science Center, Lanham-Seabrook, Maryland); **Dave Weinrich** (Planetarium, Minnesota State University, Moorhead, Minnesota); **ShiAnne Kattner** (Casper Planetarium, Casper, Wyoming); **Stephen Case** (Strickler Planetarium, Olivet Nazarene University, Bourbonnais, Illinois); **Shawn Laatsch** (Emera Astronomy Center, Orono, Maine). PlanIt invites IPS Affiliates to organize similar initiatives.

This year has been organized a similar experience also in the USA ("A week in United States", [www.ips-planetarium.org/?page=WeekinUS](http://www.ips-planetarium.org/?page=WeekinUS)). Among the winners of the first edition there is also a planetarian from Italy, dr. **David Gruber** of the staff of Planetarium Sudtirol Alto Adige. The extension of the idea of the "Week in Italy" in other countries can increase the occasions of international exchanges between planetariums.

**PlanItalia** is a national project promoted by PlanIt that involves many planetariums around a Solar System in scale calculated for the Italian country. The planetary orbits are drawn on the Italian map and include different sites of planetariums, from Padua (the Sun) to Catania (Neptune). The project is coordinated by Simonetta Ercoli, by “StarLight…a handy planetarium” association (mirusi7678@gmail.com). Each year PlanItalia members are involved by PlanIt in the organizations of public special events that are held the same day in different cities. During the year 2017 the annual program include the “Day of Planetariums”, a special date “Meeting on Jupiter” (May 20) and the National day against light pollution.

“**Pages of Stars**” is a competition, organized by IPS Portable Planetarium Committee in collaboration with Serafino Zani Astronomical Observatory, that was designed to build a collection of short audio clips that can easily be shared among planetarians. Last March, on the occasion of the International Day of Planetaria, the winner received a plate certificate. Audio and texts are available on the web page of IPS Portable Planetarium Committee, [ips-planetarium.org](http://ips-planetarium.org). 2017 winner is **Andy Kreyche** (Santa Crux, California) for the script “Turtle in the Sky” *Turtles have great significance in many cultures...like many legends, this story is an amalgam of others.*

Second Place **Joseph E. Ciotti** (Hōkūlani Imaginarium, Kaneohe, Hawaii) for the script “The Stars of Kilimanjaro”. *A personal journey and view of the stars of Kilimanjaro.*

“**Voices From the Dome**” project, promoted by Serafino Zani Astronomical Observatory, is on line on the IPS website ([www.ips-planetarium.org/?voices](http://www.ips-planetarium.org/?voices)). This project is designed to create a database of planetarians’ voices. Every planetarian can contribute to this copyright free digital archive.

These audio files can be used in a live planetarium show in the dome or during a lesson with students that learn English. For example the database contains some audio files devoted to the description of celestial phenomena like **Aurora Australis** seen from Tasmania, the **Milky Way of"
the Southern Sky and the midnight sun observed from Antartica. The voices of George Martin and April Whitt involve the audience during the description of these amazing show of the sky. Also other colleagues, everywhere, are invited to collaborate in the project. It is very easy to send new audio file about any subject useful under the star sky of the planetarium. To increase the mp3 file audio in other languages, in particular French, has been published an article on the APLF magazine “Planetariums”.

The Italian planetarian Dario Tiveron (Padova) continues to increase and to update the Fulldome Database (www.fddb.org). FDDB’s main goal is to create an exciting and friendly community that could stimulate the fulldome creativity among professionals, students, artists and other fulldome enthusiasts. FDDB’s aim is to spread around a fulldome culture while focusing on contents.

2 - CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

15 September 2017. Deadline for the applicants of "Two Weeks in Italy for an American Planetarium Operator", in collaboration with IPS Portable Planetarium Committee.
Contact: osservatorio@serafinozani.it and sbuttonq2c@gmail.com
http://www.astrofilibresciani.it/Planetari/Week_in_Italy/Week_Italy.htm

21st October 2017. National Day against light pollution (in Italy since 1993), devoted also to “Star Parks”.

31 December 2017. Deadline of the prize “Page of Stars” organized by IPS Portable Planetarium Committee in collaboration with Serafino Zani Astronomical Observatory. The prize rules are available at the IPS Mobile Planetarium Committee web page. Contact: Susan Reynolds Button, sbuttonq2c@gmail.com

28 February 2018. Deadline of PlanIt Prize for an original fulldome video production, organized each year by the Italian Association of Planetaria (PlanIt). The prize is open to everyone. First prize is 500 euro. Contact: premi@planetari.org www.planetari.org

11 March 2018. International Day of Planetaria. Contact: osservatorio@serafinozani.it www.dayofplanetaria.org
The issue of 2018 will be devoted in particular to itinerant planetaria.

20-22 April 2018. Italian Association of Planetaria (PlanIt), XXXIII National Conference, Infini.to, Turin. www.planetari.org

3 - GEOGRAPHICAL AREA SERVED BY AFFILIATE: Italy.

4 - LANGUAGE spoken BY MEMBERS OF THE AFFILIATE: Italian.
5 - NAME OF NEWSLETTER: Newsletter of the Italian Association of Planetaria (in Italian by Gianluca Ranzini and Dario Tiveron).

6 - WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.planetari.org; webmaster: Gabriele Umbriaco; Contact: gabumb@yahoo.it

7 - IPS REPRESENTATIVE: Loris Ramponi; Contact: megrez58@gmail.com

8 – OFFICERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Gianluca Ranzini (president), Simonetta Ercoli (vice-president), Loris Ramponi (secretary), Walter Riva (treasurer), Gian Nicola Cabizza, Emanuele Balboni and Dario Tiveron.

9 - MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:
   A - NUMBER OF AFFILIATE MEMBERS: 32 (at least 150 planetariums in Italy)
   B - NUMBER OF IPS MEMBERS: 12
   C - DUES: 50 euro (1 year); 90 euro (2 years).

List at least 5 facilities that have IPS members and are members of your affiliate:
DarioTiveron – Padova
Gianluca Ranzini –Milano
Walter Riva - Genova
Loris Ramponi - Brescia
Simonetta Ercoli - Perugia

In what ways have you recruited new members to IPS?
During our national meeting are described the main initiatives of IPS. What are your affiliates goals for IPS membership in the coming year?
Each three months we involve Italian members to collaborate for the “International” column published on IPS “Planetarian” magazine. It is an international window also for small facilities, but the problem of the language still remain the main limit. Probably the 2018 IPS Conference in Toulouse will help us to increase the number of Italian IPS members.

10 – PORTABLE PLANETARIUM INFORMATION:
   - HOW MANY PORTABLE PLANETARIUM ARE IN YOUR REGION? 28
   - IN WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE THEY INVOLVED? Mainly lessons for schools.
   - CONTACT PERSON: Walter Riva, walter.riva@gmail.com